GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3161
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
SUBSIDY TO SELF-EMPLOYED YOUTHS
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy and lending at lower rates of interest to self-employed youths who will be maintaining refrigerated vans and trucks to transport fruits and vegetables; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard and to boost proper export of horticulture and agricultural crops?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a scheme, `Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management` through the National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body under this Department. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided in the form of back-ended capital investment subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs.25.00 lakhs per project and to the maximum of Rs.30.00 lakhs per project in the case of North Eastern/Tribal/Hilly areas for components which reduce the post harvest losses including refrigerated vans; specialized transport vehicles for transportation of fruits and vegetables. Self employed youths are also eligible, among others, to avail the benefits under the scheme.

To boost exports of horticulture products and achieving sustained exports of fresh produce the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an Organisation under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry have initiated steps like Integrated programmes for production of quality and productivity of selected fruits and vegetables; establishment of post-harvest management facilities; Strengthening of information data base in terms of quality and other requirements of importing countries; Strengthening of testing facilities; and Setting up of Agri-Export Zones (AEZ).